

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KABUL 05638 311232Z

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8719

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 5638

E X D I S

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM ELIOT

ISLAMABAD FOR BYROADE FROM ELIOT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS/ OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT IN PAKISTAN

REF: ISLAMABAD 7841

1. I HAVE FUNDAMENTAL MISGIVINGS ABOUT SECRETARY'S MEETING BHUTTO IN PESHAWAR. PESHAWAR WAS ANCESTRAL HOME OF AFGHAN PRESIDENT DAOUD'S FAMILY AND IT IS A CITY WITH A SENTIMENTAL, POLITICAL AND HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE FOR DAOUD AND HIS FAMILY. AT WORST DAOUD MIGHT ATTRIBUTE PESHAWAR BHUTTO-KISSINGER MEETING TO BHUTTO'S MACHINATION TO underscore AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR PAK SIDE IN HISTORIC PAK-AFGHAN DISPUTE. IN THIS EVENT, HE WOULD BE DISMAYED AT SECRETARY'S HAVING ALLOWED HIMSELF TO PLAY IN BHUTTO'S SCENARIO. THIS IN TURN WOULD HAVE NEGATIVE EFFECT ON FRAGILE PAK/AFGHAN RAPPROCHEMENT. AT VERY LEAST I THINK AFGHANS WOULD REGARD SECRETARY'S VISIT TO PESHAWAR AS AN ACT OF INSENSITIVITY.

2. IN THE

EVENT SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH BHUTTO MUST TAKE PLACE IN PESHAWAR, WILL BE GRATEFUL TO HAVE INSTRUCTIONS NIACT IMMEDIATE ENABLING US TO GIVE AFGHANS REASONS BEHIND THIS SELECTION.

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EVEN WITH OPTIMISTIC ASSESSMENT OF MY SUCCESS AT GETTING AFGHANS

TO UNDERSTAND WHY PESHAWAR WAS CHOSEN, PRESENT GLOWING ATMOSPHERE FOR SECRETARY'S VISIT TO KABUL WILL BE DAMAGED.

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